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**SENATOR BERMAN AND REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS FILE LEGISLATION TO
CREATE THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

TALLAHASSEE, FL – In order to set Florida on a path of inclusive excellence, **State Senator Lori Berman (D-Delray Beach)** and **Representative Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville)** have filed **SB 180** and **HB 275** to create Florida’s first Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, headed by the Chief Diversity Officer.

The Chief Diversity Officer will advise the governor on existing inequities among minority groups in the state and engage with state agencies and business leaders to identify inclusive practices that support the recruitment and retention of employees from underrepresented groups. The office will also facilitate implicit bias trainings within Florida’s agencies.

“Roughly half of S&P 500 companies and over two thirds of our major public universities have appointed Chief Diversity Officers,” said **Senator Berman**. “Florida should follow the lead of our business and academic communities in leveraging diversity as a strength.”

“Simply put, this is about humanity and money. If we want a vibrant workforce that empowers and represents the people of this state, we need to encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion within both the public and private sector. I believe establishing this office and appointing a Chief Diversity Officer will achieve that and set Florida on a path of inclusive excellence,” said **Senator Berman**.

“While it is no secret that having diversity in our state’s workforce, healthcare, and education is important in our fight to eliminate inequities, this bill would create an avenue to ensure policies and standards are in place to eradicate discrimination,” said **Representative Davis**.

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